

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee, September 9, 7:30 PM Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

1. July meeting minutes; Approval of July minutes was delayed since minutes were not circulated prior to meeting
2. DPW Tree Department Update (Mike)
 - Watering; Mike reported that more watering happened this year than prior years. Eliza suggested the possibility of hiring an intern next summer to water trees.
 - NSTAR pruning. Still active pruning happening. Mike mentioned that he has visited a couple of neighborhoods where residents are unhappy with results of pruning.
 - Tree Warden. Two resumes came in but neither panned out. Steven Rae, the current supervisor of the forestry division, is now acting as Tree Warden.
 - Fall planting; Steven Rae and Mike R met to discuss a fall planting and the plan is to plant 50-75 trees, fulfilling tree requests that have come in on the Request/Answer center since the spring. Becky reminded us that special means should be taken to make sure that these trees are carefully watered given the drought conditions that we are now facing in Arlington.
 - Gas leak map. There was a discussion about how these might be impacting trees. Some recommended that this map of gas leaks be checked prior to planting the fall trees and to avoid gas leak areas if possible.
3. Gator Bag Tags – All bag tags were delivered by ATC members in July. Committee members feel that tags have made a big impact on people watering town trees.
4. Tree Preservation Bylaw. Susan S gave update. Mary Ellen, Sally and Susan presented a memorandum to the Board of Selectmen on Aug 17. ACMI recorded the meeting. Meeting was a success; Selectmen approved the motion to have ATC work with Town Counsel Doug Heim to begin drafting the proposed tree preservation bylaw. This bylaw would then need to be approved by a majority of Town Meeting members.
5. Town Day Planning. MEA will provide canopy and Ed will provide water jugs. Eliza will provide table and branches. Becky will provide tree watering bag. Eliza circulated a sign-up sheet for people to man the table on Sat., Sept 12:
 - 8-10 am – Set-up – Mary Ellen and Eric and Ed T
 - 10-12 – Eliza
 - 12-2 – Susan
 - 2-3 – Breakdown – Susan S

6. Stormwater forum Belmont/Arlington/Watertown on Sept 10. MEA and Eliza cannot attend. Becky might.
7. Walter Philips (former Arl Tree Committee member) visited to voice concerns about a tree removal at 9 Crescent Hill.
8. Tree Bequest update; inventory? Grant opportunities? MEA, Eliza and John plan to meet to discuss moving forward on discussion with Andy Hillman
9. Dropbox – centralized document sharing. Eliza continues to keep it up to date.
10. Publicity/Outreach
 - FB and website are being kept up to date. Susan recommended we increase number of people who like our page by asking our followers to invite people to our page.
 - T-shirts. Emily ordered new ATC t-shirts and requested reimbursement.
11. Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure. MEA passed out list of roles and responsibilities so we can talk about it next meeting. Move to top of agenda.
12. New Business
 - Heritage Trees update – no discussion
 - Tree Inventory pilot – no discussion
13. Correspondence Received – no discussion due to lack of time
 - Walter Philips : Eversource/DPW tree removal
 - Nora Shine (Lennon Road): Tree Preservation Bylaw
 - Becky Simmons (Mott Road): Tree Preservation Bylaw
 - John Ellis: WebQ/A, Dead trees, Fall planting
 - David White (55 Bow St): Gas leaks and dead trees
 - Lauren Wojtkun: Eversource tree pruning notice
 - Karen Mirya: Belmont Citizens Forum – Stormwater Forum 9/10

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Oct . 14, 2015